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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the letter dated 17 October 1997 addressed to you by His Excellency Ange-Félix Patasse, President and Head of State of the Central African Republic. In addition to thanking you for your clear and demonstrated willingness to help solve the Central African crisis, he requests the members of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), which will expire on 6 November 1997.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio DEINDE FERNANDEZ
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 17 October 1997 from the President of the Central African Republic addressed to the Secretary-General

First of all, I should like to convey to you all the gratitude of the Central African people and Government for the very fraternal and effective way in which you have taken into account the concerns that I expressed to you in my letter of 4 July 1997 (S/1997/561, annex).

The warm welcome that you and your close collaborators gave last July to the delegation of the International Committee to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements, led by President Amadou Toumani Touré, and the promptness with which the Security Council considered the question of the Central African crisis bear eloquent witness to the international community's interest in my country.

I particularly welcome the Security Council's adoption of resolution 1125 (1997), authorizing the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB).

Significant progress has been made since then. A climate of de-escalation and détente currently prevails in Bangui and has led to the resumption of activities in all sectors.

The action of the Security Council was considered in my country as a sort of guarantee in respect of the security which my brothers in the International Monitoring Committee and MISAB are effectively helping to restore, both in the capital and in the interior of the country.

Nonetheless, it is clear that much remains to be done in order to achieve lasting peace and national reconciliation. The newly restored peace deserves to be consolidated, especially in view of the forthcoming legislative elections to be held in 1998 and the presidential elections scheduled for 1999.

Therefore, I should be grateful if you would arrange, in liaison with the Security Council, for the mandate of MISAB to be extended for an additional three-month period after the date of its expiration on 6 November 1997, as implicitly indicated by resolution 1125 (1997).

I am now taking the necessary steps with my counterparts and brothers who have kindly sent contingents to Bangui. These same steps will be taken in respect of France, which has provided logistical support to MISAB thus far.

I am grateful to the Security Council for its many appeals to all States Members of the United Nations to help strengthen the logistical support for MISAB in order to relieve the French Government.

(Signed) Ange-Félix PATASSE